Architectural Thesis

Designs

Texts

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THESIS FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

IN ARCHITECTURE

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

PRESENTED JUNE 1904

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HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF Architecture

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A Public Library Building.

In selecting a thesis subject, the practical value of such a problem should be carefully considered. Of course it may be said of the practical problem, that it has been worked and reworked until there remains little or nothing to be improved upon. Be that as it may, but in the event of ones' producing something entirely different or new, he has accomplished as much, if not more than the fellow who selected a new or impracticable problem. A problem is practical in that it represents the kind of work, an architect is sure to meet in his practice. Thus the practical problem serves two purposes. It serves as a thesis subject and it serves as a preparation for a similar task later on.

So, the solution of a library design being a very practical problem, such a subject was chosen for this thesis.

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This thesis consists of three plates of drawings. On plate are the plans of the grounds at 1/64" scale and the plans of the basement, the first floor and second floor at 1/16" scale. Plates two and three contain the front and a side elevations at 1/8" scale.

The program of the problem is as follows;-

Lot, 300 feet by 300 feet.
Stack capacity, 100,000 volumns.
On the basement are situated;-

Lecture room to accomodate 320 people.	
An exhibition hall,	1978 square feet.
Janitor's room,	372 square feet.
Repair and work room,	372 square feet.
Heating and ventilating dept.,	1413 square feet.
Stock room	1732 square feet.
Toilet rooms (each)	176 square feet.
Halls and corridors.	
On the first floor;-	
Delivery department,	2092 square feet.
Children's reading room,	1978 square feet.
Reference reading room,	2498 square feet.
Librarian's office	268 square feet.

Cataloguer's room, 228 square feet.
Conversation room, 144 square feet.
Stack rooms (four. each), 1290 square feet.
Cloak rooms, (each), 176 square feet.
Waiting room, 144 square feet.
Halls and corridors.
On the second floor:-
An art museum, 1978 square feet.
Newspapers and periodicals, 1978 square feet.
Trustees' room, 360 square feet.
Work room, 360 square feet.
Stack rooms, 1290 square feet.
Toilet rooms, (each) 176 square feet.
Halls and corridors.

The exterior is to be classic in design and is to be constructed of a light colored, dressed stone. The covering of the main roof is to be of red tile and that of the dome stone. There is one main entrance for the public and a side entrance to be used by the attendants, if desirable. The basement windows are placed below grade and are

surrounded by areas. They were placed in this manner, to give the base a uniform and sufficiently strong appearance.

The interior is also in the classic style and is to be very elaborate, except in the reading rooms, where the finish is to be quiet and dignified. The delivery hall extends through two stories and is covered by a glass dome. The stacks rooms are to be four in number and are to have glass floors and iron framed stacks. The floors throughout the building are to be of tile.

No attempt was made to break entirely away from the accustomed arrangements of the different parts of a library, but a few departures were made. Placing the newspaper and periodical room on the second floor might, at the first thought, seem wrong, but in this position it relieves the other reading rooms of the disturbances necessarily present in

the newspaper room caused by the continual coming and going.

The arrangement of the delivery desk, working space, book lift, librarian office and cataloguer's room in close proximity makes the supervision and service very simple and easy.

It is unusual to place a lecture room in the basement, but in this case it is the ideal place, for it reduces the disturbances to the rest of the building, caused by the entrance and departure of a crowd of people and it reduces the dangers from a fire panic.

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